

Teacher Background & Preparation Sheet For Teacher Study Only – Not Read Aloud

LESSON IDENTIFICATION

Week #: 5

Date: February 1, 2026

Lesson Title: Noah & the Ark: Trusting God's Word

Primary Scripture Passage(s): Genesis 6–9

Bible Timeline Placement: Early History – After Creation and the Fall, before the nations spread (Genesis 1–11)

PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON

Children should learn that God's Word is true and trustworthy, even when it is hard to understand or unpopular to believe. God judges sin, but He also provides a way of rescue. Noah trusted God's Word and obeyed Him, and God kept every promise He made. This lesson helps children see that trusting God's Word leads to life and points forward to Jesus, our Savior.

BOOK & PASSAGE BACKGROUND

Book Name: Genesis

Traditional Author: Moses

Approximate Date Written: Around 1400 BC

Original Audience: The people of Israel, newly formed as God's covenant people

Purpose of the Book: To show that God is the Creator of all things, that sin entered the world, and that God began His plan to rescue humanity through His promises.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT

Genesis 6–9 describes a real historical judgment and rescue. Humanity had grown very wicked. Scripture says, "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth" (Genesis 6:5). Violence filled the earth (Genesis 6:11). God instructed Noah to build a large ark made of wood, sealed with pitch, to preserve life. Long lifespans were normal before the flood (Genesis 5), and rainfall may have been unfamiliar, making Noah's obedience especially difficult (Genesis 2:5–6).

IMMEDIATE BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Before this passage: Creation (Genesis 1–2), the Fall (Genesis 3), and the spread of sin (Genesis 4–6).

After this passage: God's covenant promise not to destroy the earth by flood again and the spread of nations (Genesis 9–11).

Why this moment matters in God's plan: God shows both His holiness against sin and His mercy in providing rescue, setting a pattern that ultimately points to salvation through Jesus.

KEY THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS — APPLIED TO THIS WEEK'S LESSON

CORE TRUTH #1: What this lesson teaches about God

God is holy, just, and faithful. He must judge sin (Genesis 6:5–7), but He also shows grace (Genesis 6:8). God keeps His promises exactly as He speaks them (Genesis 8:1; 9:11).

CORE TRUTH #2: What this lesson teaches about people

People are affected deeply by sin and cannot save themselves. Noah was not chosen because he was perfect, but because he trusted and obeyed God (Genesis 6:9, 22). People need God's rescue.

CORE TRUTH #3: What this lesson teaches about salvation

God provides a way of rescue. The ark is a picture of God saving those who trust Him. This points forward to Jesus, who saves us from sin and judgment (1 Peter 3:20–21).

CORE TRUTH #4: Trusting God's Word

Everything happened exactly as God said it would (Genesis 7:5, 16; 8:13–14). God's Word can be trusted even when the world does not believe it.

CORE TRUTH #5: God as Trinity

God the Father planned judgment and rescue (Genesis 6:13–18). God the Son is the ultimate rescuer, foreshadowed by the ark (John 14:6). God the Holy Spirit gives life and sustains creation (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30). God is one God in three Persons.

RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE

The flood account is treated as real history throughout Scripture (Isaiah 54:9; Matthew 24:37–39; Hebrews 11:7). The consistency of this account across the Bible and Jesus' own affirmation support its reliability. Geological evidence of widespread flooding and fossil layers is consistent with a global flood, supporting Scripture's historical claims.

TEACHER STUDY RESOURCE (HIGHLY ENCOURAGED)

Video Title: The Ark and the Darkness

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/1sUaQAmMA8U?si=olgiTpQppnT1Q3Kd>

Teacher Note: This is a long-form teaching video, but it is strongly encouraged that teachers take the time to watch it, either all at once or in sections. The video provides rich, thoughtful insight into the worldwide flood, biblical theology, and the seriousness of God's judgment paired with His mercy. It will deepen your confidence in the historical reality of Genesis 6-9 and strengthen your ability to answer thoughtful questions with calm assurance rooted in Scripture.

APOLOGETICS FOUNDATION

This event is believable because God Himself reveals it in His Word. Jesus spoke of Noah as a real person and the flood as a real event (Matthew 24:37). We trust the Bible because God does not lie (Numbers 23:19).

THE NEPHILIM (TEACHER CLARITY SECTION)

Scripture Reference: Genesis 6:1-4

Genesis tells us, "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward" (Genesis 6:4). The Bible does not give extensive detail about who the Nephilim were, but it does tell us enough to teach faithfully without speculation.

What Scripture Clearly Says: The Nephilim were real beings mentioned before the flood. Their presence is connected to a time of increasing wickedness on the earth. The focus of Genesis 6 is not on explaining the Nephilim in detail, but on explaining humanity's deep corruption and God's righteous response (Genesis 6:5-7).

Faithful Teaching Guidance: Teachers should avoid sensational explanations or imaginative speculation. Scripture does not require us to define every detail to trust what God has revealed. What matters most is that sin had spread so deeply that the earth was filled with violence (Genesis 6:11), and God acted justly.

How to Frame This for Children: This topic does not need to be taught directly unless a child asks. If asked, a simple and faithful answer is: "The Bible tells us the Nephilim were real, but God does not tell us everything about them. What He wants us to understand is that the world had become very sinful, and God needed to act to stop evil and protect life."

Why This Matters: This reinforces that we trust God's Word even when it does not answer every question. God tells us what we need to know to trust Him and obey Him (Deuteronomy 29:29).

ANTICIPATED CHILD QUESTIONS

"Did the flood really happen?" Yes. Jesus said it did (Matthew 24:37-39), and the Bible tells us God keeps His Word.

"How did the animals fit?" God brought the animals to Noah (Genesis 6:20). God is powerful and wise enough to do what He promises.

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

The ark was not a storybook idea; it was a real rescue. Noah was not saved because he was perfect, but because he trusted God.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Just as the ark saved Noah and his family from judgment, Jesus saves us from sin through His death and resurrection (John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

TEACHER HEART PREPARATION

Pray for confidence in God's Word. Ask God to help you teach with clarity, gentleness, and joy, trusting that His Word will do its work in children's hearts (Isaiah 55:11).